

Tulane Innovation Institute co-hosts Open MIC Night to foster creative medical and healthcare solutions

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The Tulane University Innovation Institute and the Tulane School of Medicine sponsored an “Open MIC (Medical Innovation Challenge) Night” on March 16 to encourage participants to innovate and think of creative solutions to complex medical and healthcare problems. Ideas presented at the series can take the form of a drug, medical device, procedure, app, or other creative solution.

The best ideas move to the next round for “de-risking” and commercialization with expert advice and mentorship. In early May, the six winners of the Open MIC Night series will present a formal pitch to a panel of judges for a prize of \$2,000, and may get a chance to compete for up to \$50,000 from the Provost’s Proof of Concept Fund. Open MIC Night provides resources and support that theoretically make applicants more competitive for the Provost's Proof of Concept Fund. The competition is open to medical and PhD students, postdocs/residents/fellows, and any Tulane faculty and staff with ideas for innovative medical solutions.

[Read more about the Tulane Innovation Institute at their website.](#)

Melika Farzam, PhD candidate in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, makes a 3-minute pitch at the Open MIC Night sponsored by the Tulane Innovation Institute and the Innovation in Medicine Institute at the School of Medicine. (Photo by Cheryl Gerber), Kimberly Gramm, David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer at the Tulane Innovation Institute (front) joins the winners of Round 2 of the Open MIC Night held on March 16: (from left) Talia Daneshrad, a Management, Marketing and Management major at the A.B. Freeman School of Business; Kalen Hall, a PhD student in Biomedical Sciences at the School of Medicine; Leo Williams, PhD candidate in the BioInnovation laboratories of Zachary F. Pursell, PhD; Dr. Nassir Marrouche, Director of TRIAD Center and professor of medicine; Ryan Reynolds, a Finance major at the Freeman School; Alex Suh, Tulane medical student; Kemdi Okafor, Tulane medical and master’s student; Rishawn

Dindial, Tulane medical and MBA student; and Ramesess Akamefula, Tulane medical and MBA student. (Photo by Cheryl Gerber)